

St Mary's News



w/c 14th October 2024

Message from the Headteacher



Thank you to everyone who joined our Harvest celebration on Friday 11th October. We are especially grateful for the food donations for the food bank and to all the parents and grandparents who volunteered to walk back to school. We really appreciate this and couldn't do these events safely without your help.

We have been inundated with compliments for the children's enthusiastic singing and the confident readers. 😊 Well done also to our children in reception children who led their parents and carers in a mini-Harvest liturgy on Friday afternoon. Their Harvest action songs were also enthusiastically sung!



Thank you to everyone who has volunteered to help at school this term. If you have skills that you believe would benefit our school, please do make an appointment at the office to meet with Mr Thomas our volunteer's coordinator.

Thank you also to all those parents and carers who attended our Maths Information Session last week. It was very well attended! Miss Lindsay, our Maths Leader, has ensured that the handouts from the session are on the website and distributed via DoJo.

This week we have our Open Evening for September 2025 starters. Please do let friends and neighbours know so that we have a good turn out on Thursday evening! Some of our Mini Vinnies will be welcoming and leading tours for prospective parents.

Important Dates

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| Thursday 17th October | Open Evening for prospective parents |
| 22nd and 24th October | Parent/Teacher Consultations |
| Wednesday 23rd October – 9:00 | Open Tour of the School for prospective parents |
| Thursday 24th October – 11:00 | Open Tour of the School for prospective parents |
| 25th October - 1st November | Half Term Break |
| Monday 4th November | INSET Day |
| Wednesday 6th November 14:00 | Open Tour of the School for prospective parents |
| Friday 15th November - 13th December | Class 6L swimming lessons |
| Wednesday 20th November 9:15 | Open Tour of the School for prospective parents |

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| Tuesday 26th November 13:15 | Open Tour of the School for prospective parents |
| Wednesday 13th November 14:30 | Reading Workshop |
| Tuesday 10th December 9:00 | Year 1 Nativity |
| Tuesday 10th December 14:00 | Year 2 Nativity |
| Thursday 12th December 14:00 | Year R Nativity |
| Friday 13th December 15:00 | Carols Around the Tree |
| Thursday 19th December 9:00 | KS2 Carol Service |
| 23rd December - 3rd January | Christmas Break |

Announcements

Farewell

This week we say farewell to Mrs Ferreira who leaves St Mary's to work at St Joesphs School. Mrs Ferreira has worked at St Marys for 2 years within our EYFS / KS1 team and we are very grateful for all her contributions. We wish Mrs Ferreira well in her future career.



Staff Vacancies

Midday Staff

We have filled one of our MSA positions. If you are interested in supporting our Midday team and helping to keep our children safe and happy during their lunch break then please be courageous and complete an application form. These can be obtained from Mrs Hazell in the office.

Teaching Assistant

The governors are seeking to appoint a teaching assistant to work with our youngest pupils. We are seeking an enthusiastic adult, with a passion for inclusion. It is desirable for the successful applicant to have a level 2 or level 3 certificate in a primary school specific course or EYFS course. If you are interested, please obtain an application form from Mrs Hazell in the office.

Reminders

Start the Day Routine

After half term we encourage our youngest children in reception to say goodbye to parents and carers at the main gates. Staff will be there to encourage them and guide them along to their classroom door. This is a big step for our little ones, but they quickly get used to this routine and enjoy walking in with the older boys and girls. Any messages for teachers in the mornings need to go via the school office as the classroom staff are focused on supervising the children. They are, however, available for a chat at the end of the school day. Alternatively, if the message is not urgent, please send the teachers a dojo / tapestry message. Teachers will try to respond to all messages within 48 hours.

Uniform

PE uniform: PE shorts, jogging bottoms and sweatshirt must be plain navy blue – not black or logo kit please. Pupils are expected to wear PE kit for football club practices not football kit. We have school kit for matches.

School Shoes and Socks: Black school shoes – not boots with grey or black socks for boys. Girls may wear white or navy socks or tights.

Hair: Long hair must be tied back off the face – girls and boys. Haircuts must be not shorter than a grade 2 - no shaved styles please.

Parking Considerately

Residents on Hunt Road and Pound Lane have contacted the school to complain about inconsiderate parking, blocking driveways and parking up on the pavements. There should be NO parents parking on Hunt Road as this is for residents only. Please park a little further away and walk the short distance to school. These parking restrictions apply to parents dropping off at Early Birds and picking up from Night Owls. Thank you.

Weekly Phonics Practice

Oi sound <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/2MYM1GOO/NwJU5Bfw>

Fred games for EYFS <https://schools.ruthmiskin.com/training/view/CIZa91TY/PgbPPqK7>

Be Safe

As the winter draws in please can we encourage pupils to wear **High Viz** jackets when walking, cycling and scootering to and from school. Please wear helmets when cycling.

The online world is a space that our young people need to be able to navigate. We want them to do so safely and understand how actions online can have a real, lasting impact on their wellbeing and happiness. You might find the following resources from the NSPCC really helpful in starting to discuss online safety at home. If you do not wish to download the resources, the information on "Play, Protect, Ask, Say" may still be useful for guiding conversations with your children.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/support-for-parents/techosaurus/>

Be Here, be Ready

Thank you for making a huge effort to get your child to school and in time! This is despite so many local road works and subsequent delays and various coughs, colds and viruses which are currently affecting so many of us!

Thank You!

Below is the attendance for each class and all but two have managed to achieve the Government's current target. Thank you!

| | |
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| 1B | 97.5 |
| 1AK | 95.1 |
| 2H | 96.0 |
| 2GL | 96.1 |
| 3S | 98.3 |
| 3H | 95.7 |

| | |
|-----|------|
| 4Lo | 96.2 |
| 4La | 96.7 |
| 5M | 96.2 |
| 5WT | 98.0 |
| 6L | 96.2 |
| 6W | 98.1 |

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|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Total whole school attendance | 96.7 |
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Spotlight

The Rosary

During October the children say the Hail Mary Prayer each day and also pray a decade of the rosary at least once a week. On 18th October our children will join millions of children around the world to say a decade of the rosary together. If your child has a set of rosary beads, they are welcome to bring them into school on Friday 18th October as we join children from more than 100 countries and on all continents praying for peace and unity. You can also use the



